Baltimore Commission on Sustainability Built Environment Working Group Meeting Report

Date: Monday, July 17, 2008 6pm, Baltimore City Dept of Planning

Subject: Built Environment Working Group Community Conversation

In Attendance: Julie Gabrielli, Ruth Ann Norton, Bronwyn Phillips, Sarah Zaleski, Kara Hubbard, Joe Maheady, Steve Allen, Shaun Corcoran, Lisa Ferretto, Rene Watkins, Sarah, Husain, Atticus Doman, John Cutonillie, Tonya Silvan, Amanda Murphy, Bryce Butler, Wendy Olsson, Elisa Ford, Johns Hopkins, Jacky Jennings, Andrea Branam, Carol Eshelman, Margaret First, Lisa London, Robert Cotton, Lorah Cusick, Carri Harlan, Robb Brennan, Alejandro Necochea, Rachel Jones, Peter Duvall, Catherine Morris, Lorraine Doo, Joseph Landers

Discussion: The meeting began with an explanation of the purpose of the meeting and a reading of the Goals, Strategies & Targets as they stood. As the Built Environment is a very broad topic the need for further refinement of the organization & prioritization is required.

The Built Environment vision statement was re- presented – "Baltimore has a built environment that integrates and benefits people, communities, and natural systems." Then the meeting opened up to the floor.

Topics addressed:

- Reuse of ex. Bldgs & neighborhoods
 - Historic Preservation Amandy Murphy
 - Vacant & abandoned properities
 - Affordable housing in all neighborhoods
- Rate each house for energy efficiency
 - Same for commercial RE
 - Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors Joseph Landess
 - Regulatory issues for landlords
- Residential programs must reach more folks "on the ground"
 - Give away water saving devices Luisa Ferretto
- BE & Public Health linkages
 - Demolition & public health linkage
- Bird friendly design- light pollution
- Greening of the schools
 - Teachers Union ART Loretta Johnson
- Attract Eco-industry
- MD Fuel Fund Training
- Prioritize small business loans
- Need for resource list
 - Green Bldg supplies
 - Professionals
- Reduce the amount of demolitions
 - Sustainable demolition fee
- Address Bldg Code constraints
- Greening mainstreets
- Use community groups to spread the word
 - How to reach neighborhood association meetings
- Sustainable land use planning

- Report what churches are doing
 - St Vincent installed geothermal
- Focus on the positive aspect of sustainability not just being "less bad"
- LIVE Baltimore programs
 - Effective marketing plan
- Outstanding topics:
 - Tour of Brooklyn Green Townhouses before Aug 20 BE Community Conversation

Upcoming Events:

Next BE WG Listening Session: Wednesday Aug 20th 5:45 PM, Brooklyn Public Library, 300 E. Patapsco Ave.